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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2006

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LOCAL BANKRUPTCY ATTORNEY PLEADS GUILTY TO FORGING
A BANKRUPTCY JUDGE'S ORDER

FRESNO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that on late Friday, July 7, 2006, local bankruptcy attorney JOHN PETER ELEAZARIAN, 54, of Fresno, pled guilty before United States District Judge Oliver Wanger to forging a bankruptcy judge's order.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of the United States Trustee.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Stanley A. Boone, who is prosecuting this case, ELEAZARIAN was representing a bankruptcy client whose car had been improperly repossessed by the creditor. Despite repeated requests by the debtor to get her car back, the defendant failed to act for over seven months. In response to the repeated requests, the defendant provided the debtor with a forged order, purportedly signed by United States Bankruptcy Judge W. Richard Lee, stating that the creditor had improperly taken the debtor's vehicle, and that the debtor was entitled to sanctions in the amount of \$20,000.

Sentencing is set for October 2, 2006, before Judge Oliver Wanger. The single count of forging a judicial order carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

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